

FAQs for the 2-way partial re-opening of the A29

Where will the traffic lights be placed?

The traffic lights will be 2-way only and the lights will be situated on Church Hill, in advance of the narrowing created by the concrete blocks.

How will the lights be manned, and queues monitored?

The lights will be manually controlled by experienced operatives at either end of the narrowing. The operatives will constantly be in radio contact to manage the lights depending on the vehicle volumes and priority of traffic flow.

The lane looks very narrow, will HGVs be able to navigate it safely?

While the lane may look narrow due to the angle of the photo, it is in fact 3.5m wide, which is compliant with the relevant Department for Transport standards. HGVs and larger vehicles may need to travel at a slower speed while navigating the bend.

Why have you opted for 2-way lights, you're going to cause a lot of congestion?

Risk assessments were completed for a number of options and the 2-way traffic light option is considered the safest of those for partially re-opening of Church Hill.

We are aware that the two-way option will result in traffic queuing at either end, however we feel that the addition of manual controlling of the traffic signals at peak hours will minimise the disruption these queues may cause. We will of course monitor this situation and consider other options if it is felt the 2-way traffic lights are not offering a benefit compared to the previous road closure.

What traffic modelling or similar have you done to assess the likely queues?

We have reviewed A29 traffic flows to the north and south of Church Hill and considered how much capacity there is for queuing vehicles at either end of the traffic lights. We are aware that the two-way option will result in traffic queuing at either end, however we feel that the addition of manual controlling of the traffic signals at peak hours will minimise the disruption these queues may cause.

Has this option been discussed and agreed with the Parish Council?

There has been a significant amount of concern raised with the closure of Church Hill and how this is affecting businesses and residents. Although the road is not being reopened under the normal conditions of 2-way traffic flow, it is felt that this option provides some improvement to the previous arrangement. The Parish Council were made aware that we were looking at a number of options to reopen Church Hill in some capacity but the decision falls to the County Council.

Why did other parties state that you were doing one-way with no lights?

This would be for the relevant third parties to comment on. We have risk assessed a one-way option and this was communicated to all relevant stakeholders as part of ongoing discussions, but this was considered to carry more risk than 2-way lights, due to the need to avoid the risk of driver confusion or error in using a one-way system at the location.

Why can't the path be used by pedestrians even though you've cleared the vegetation?

The footway remains blocked as only minimal material on the carriageway was removed to facilitate the installation of the concrete blocks, pedestrians must use the alternative routes available.

Will the parking restrictions on New Place Road remain in place?

Yes, until we have a better understanding on how the new arrangement of 2-way lights operates.

What will emergency service vehicles do when responding to a call?

Emergency services now have more options to navigate north and south, than previously existed with the road closure in place and will continue to utilise the best route available to them at the time of responding to a call.

When will you be repairing the surrounding roads that have been damaged by unofficial diversion traffic?

No date has been set but we will continue to undertake any repairs that are considered to be a safety issue. A more comprehensive programme of repair will be compiled when the timeline regarding the proposed longer term works to the embankment are known.

When will the permanent works be completed to open the A29 fully?

When we have a solution that makes the road safe for 2-way traffic it will be implemented as soon as the necessary permissions for the work have been settled.

Who has legal responsibility for the embankments either side of the road?

The two embankments which form the cutting for the A29 at Church Hill in Pulborough are in private ownership. The legal responsibility of the Council as Highway Authority is to deal with any risk or obstruction to the highway they may present. If that requires remedial work or maintenance then the County Council is responsible for ensuring it happens but it cannot carry any work out without the permission of the landowners. This is usually achieved in such locations by reaching simple agreement or a licence with the landowner. For all other purposes the embankments are the responsibility of the landowners.